

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:55pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith, James McIlroy, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Chief Reed, Fran Lane, Bill Davis, and Dwight Davis.

At 6:55pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3II. The meeting returned to a public session at 7:05pm. During this session, a personnel issue was discussed as a follow-up to an earlier complaint and the matter has been settled.

At 7:07pm the meeting went into a meeting with Town Counsel per RSA91-A:III. At 7:35pm the meeting returned to a public session.

Wes made a motion to send a letter to Michael Mastropietro denying his request for an extension to make payment to the Town for the court judgement. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

James made a motion to authorize Fran Lane to contact Mitchell & Bates, PA as co-counsel to seek a stay in the Verizon case. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Chief Reed returned to the meeting and informed the Selectmen that he would like his attorney to review the Addendum to his contract before it is signed. He disagrees with the wording of the first paragraph which makes his pay raises subject to town vote. It was explained that the two attorneys who reviewed the Addendum stated this must be included. James suggested Chief Reed contact his own attorney and Wes volunteered to contact the Local Government Center for their opinion.

Janet stated that at the Deliberative Session, a Town employee could raise their hand during the meeting and make a motion to increase their salary by 80% or more. The Chief said that it could go the other way as well.

The Chief stated that even if the Townspeople did not approve his pay raise, he could still receive it by moving funds within the police department budget to cover an increase in his pay. Janet stated that she hoped he would not put the public's safety at risk by cutting funds in any one area in order to provide pay raises.

The Chief also asked that the fourth year of the contract be eliminated.

Chief Reed will meet with the Selectmen next week after he has met with his attorney.

Bill Davis met with the Selectmen to discuss the Deliberative Session held on February 7th. He stated that during the Deliberative Session he may have incorrectly advised the body that amendments to warrant articles could not change the intent of the article. He referenced RSA 49:13 IV.

Dwight Davis and Bill Davis brought the Selectmen up to date with the Comcast renewal contract. As Comcast is training a new employee and Dwight is unable to get in contact with that employee, they feel Newfields should ask for an extension on the current contract. They suggested that the Selectmen send a letter to Comcast. In the meantime, Dwight will continue to try to reach the new employee and set up a time for a meeting with the Selectmen.

Dwight read in the newspaper that the property on the corner of Route 108 and Main Street owes back taxes to the Town and the estate wanted an extension to pay the money due. Dwight wanted to inform the Selectmen that his company met with the estate several times to try to purchase the property and was turned down. Dwight did say that the estate had other alternatives to sell the property. James told Dwight that Mike Mastropietro informed the Selectmen last week that he has signed a new Purchase and Sales Agreement with a different party.

Dwight asked the Selectmen if he could be interviewed for the position of Real Estate Agent for the Town in the sale of the old Post Office. He was informed that the sale has to be approved by Town Vote before a broker can be chosen.

James recused himself from the Abatement decision on 7 Maple Street as his home was used as a comparison property. Wes made a motion to deny the abatement. Janet seconded the motion and it passed with both in favor.

Wes informed the Selectmen that Al Dixon of Newmarket told Wes that he was unable to contact the Newfields Town Office (either the telephone was busy or it was not answered). Wes asked Al to try again as the two towns need to meet to discuss the bicycle lane that the State of New Hampshire wants to build between the towns.

In November of 2006, Brett Wells and Chris Hutchins, both former police officers for the Town of Newfields, requested that the Town pay them for alleged unused sick time accrued during their tenure with the Town as full-time employees. This past Thursday, February 15, 2007, the Town of Newfields, represented by Selectman Wes Moore, along with Attorney Tom Closson, and with the authority of the entire Board of Selectmen, did successfully negotiate an agreement with both Wells and Hutchins to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

In July of 2006, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a personnel policy

for the Town of Newfields. In addition to providing specific terms, conditions, and benefits to the employees of the Town, it should also prevent wage claims of the type just settled.

Discussion on the proposed changes to the Winter Parking Ban were tabled until next week.

Janet proposed that a locking file cabinet be purchased so that the Selectmen have a place to keep employee personnel files. The other Selectmen agreed that this would be a good idea and asked Nancy to obtain prices for them.

Correspondence from the Watershed Management Bureau was reviewed.

A thank you note was received from M. Carolyn Conner who was awarded the Boston Post Cane by the Town.

Correspondence from Northeast Resource Recovery Association was reviewed.

A letter of appreciation to Bobbie Byrne for her many years of service to the Newfields Conservation Commission was signed by the Selectmen along with the members of the Conservation Commission.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting with minor changes. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

At 9:15pm Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer